

## CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A horse blanket, comprising:
  - a) a back portion having a neck end and a tail end;
  - b) side portions arranged to depend from the back portion when the blanket is on a horse, the side portions extending from the tail end to a chest area, the side portions being removably coupled together at the chest area;
  - c) a neck opening located between the neck end of the back portion and the chest area, the edge of the neck opening being elasticized for substantially the entire circumference of the neck opening;
  - d) a gusset in a front leg area of each of the side portions, the gusset being elasticized.
2. (Original) The horse blanket of claim 1, wherein the neck opening is elasticized at a stretch-to-relaxation ratio of at least 10:9.
3. (Original) The horse blanket of claim 1, wherein the side portions are removably coupled together at the chest area by way of hook and loop fasteners.
4. (Original) The horse blanket of claim 1, wherein the side portions are removably coupled together at the chest area by at least one strap and fastener.

5. (Original) The horse blanket of claim 4, wherein some portion of the strap or fastener is elasticized.
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Currently Amended) The horse blanket of claim 1, wherein:
  - a) the side portions are removably coupled together at the chest area by at least one strap and fastener;
  - b) some portion of the strap or fastener is elasticized;
  - ~~c) a gusset in a front leg area of each of the side portions, the gusset being elasticized.~~
8. (Original) A horse blanket, comprising:
  - a) a back portion having a neck end and a tail end;
  - b) side portions arranged to depend from the back portion when the blanket is on a horse, the side portions extending from the tail end to a chest area, the side portions being removably coupled together at the chest area, each of the side portions having an area located in proximity to a front leg of a horse when the blanket is on a horse;
  - c) a neck opening located between the neck end of the base portion and the chest area;
  - d) each side portion having a gusset located in a front leg area, the gusset being elasticized.

9. (Original) The horse blanket of claim 8, wherein:
  - a) the side portions are removably coupled together at the chest area by at least one strap and fastener, with at least some portions of the strap or fastener being elasticized.